GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5081
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
PRODUCTION OF NG BASED EXPLOSIVES
SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

[a] the number and details of industrial units in the country producing NG-based explosives, their manufacturing capacity and strength of workers ;

[b] the aid or incentives given to help such units to changeover slurry based explosives or otherwise diversify their product lines ;

[c] whether NG based and slurry based explosives have the same shelf life and are equally safe during storage or distribution ;

[d] if not, the comparative merits and demerits in respect of storage and handling of the above ;

[e] whether a representation to constitute a committee representing all interests in explosives industry including NG based manufacturers and workers has been received by the Government ; and

[f] if so, the response of the Government, therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) : There are four industrial units in the country producing NG based explosives :

	Licensed capacity (MT/annum)	Strength of workers
1 M/s. Noble Explo-chem Ltd., Nagpur	15000	478
2. M/s. Bharat Explosives Limited, Lalitpur	10000	216
3. M/s. Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Ltd., Vellore	9000	200
4. Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	5000	80

(b) : At present, the Government does not have any specific scheme to provide aid or incentives to such units.

(c) & (d) : NG based explosives have a shelf life of more than one year while slurry explosives have a shelf life limited to six months only. Slurry explosives are safer during storage, handling and distribution etc., while NG based explosives are more sensitive to impact, friction, shock etc. and therefore, need to be handled with greater caution.

(e) & (f) : The Government had constituted a Committee comprising the Chairman, Development Council for Explosives Industry and Chief Controller of Explosives to look into the issue of phasing out of NG based explosives. The Committee had wide ranging consultations with manufacturers, users and dealers etc. including NG based explosives manufacturers before submitting its report. The setting up of another Committee is presently not under consideration.